



**State of Connecticut**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

## **Testimony**

In Support of H.B. No. 5271

*An Act Concerning An Act Concerning The Siting Council*  
Energy and Technology Committee

March 1, 2012

Dear Senators Fonfara and Witkos, Representatives Nardello and Hoydick and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

We respectfully ask your consideration of H.B. 5271, An Act Concerning The Siting Council that prohibits cell towers be sited within 250 feet of schools and day care centers.

The genesis of this bill came from an application by T-Mobile to the Connecticut Siting Council for permission to place a cell tower on property adjacent to a local elementary school in Greenwich.

Currently there is no definitive scientific evidence proving negative health factors to children exposed to repeated emissions from cell towers; however, there is much apprehension about these emissions and their possible effect on children. Parents of children attending schools which have cell towers sited within 250 feet are concerned about the effect of daily exposure from electromagnetic fields. Given the possible detrimental problems associated with exposure, it would be prudent for Connecticut to err on the side of caution and not allow cell towers to be placed near where children congregate on a daily basis.

The Federal Telecommunication Act of 1996 states the Council must consider the environmental impact in the siting of a facility. However, it is not required to take into consideration health factors associated with possible harmful emissions emanating from the electronic fields of a cell tower.

We urge the committee to discuss possible negative health effects with the Connecticut Siting Council and, if necessary, instruct the Council to disallow a cell tower to be sited next to a school or day care center.

Given the strong opposition to cell towers both in the proximity of schools and day care centers and in residential neighborhoods, we believe the cell companies must assume some of the responsibility for the distribution of cell service so as not to antagonize the neighbors and the surrounding community. Advanced technology is available (albeit, possibly more expensive), yet this technology is constantly changing and being upgraded. Since there is so much controversy on the siting of these towers, we believe the legislature should act and instruct the cell companies to research and use the latest, least conspicuous and most advanced technology.

We thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Lile R. Gibbons*

Lile Gibbons  
State Representative

*Livvy R. Floren*

Livvy R. Floren  
State Representative